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COUNTRY

Poland

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REPORT NO.

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TOPIC

Troops and Military Installations in Kalisz.

EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT prior to March 1951

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

13 September 1951

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES

3

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 9 December 1950, a headquarters commanded by a general, a military unit, a recruiting office, a hospital, and a military administrative office were located in the barracks installation on ul. Nowy Swiat, Kalisz (P 52/ N 94). The units occupied a corner building fronting on ul. Zymierskiego, formerly ul. Marszalka Pilsudskiego, and with its east side on ul. Nowy Swiat. The headquarters was located on the fourth floor of the wing fronting on ul. Nowy Swiat; [ ] referred to as brigade headquarters while draftees were registered at the recruiting office. The office rooms of the recruiting office were located on the third floor of the same building; administrative agencies, a kitchen with a mess hall, and a clothing supply room were located on the second floor. The hospital was located in the corner building proper. A military unit subordinate to the so-called brigade headquarters was located in the wing fronting on ul. Zymierskiego. It consisted of young troops wearing khaki uniforms with stand-up collars, yellow service color on the bands of their caps, and triangular patches mounted on their collar tips. Officers wore rectangular collar patches bordered with a silver piping. The soldiers who were referred to as infantrymen by local residents were seen moving out only in squads. They were equipped with rifles, submachine guns and machine guns. Numerous sedans and trucks were in the garages of the installation.

2. Prior to early December 1950, a unit of Polish troops wearing red service color on their patches and cap bands was located in the three-story barracks building of the installation in the center of Kalisz, fronting with its south side on ul. Lazienna and with its east side on ul. Sukiennicza. The unit, which was referred to as an infantry unit by local residents, trained recruits. It had light infantry weapons and was connected with the barracks installation on ul. Nowy Swiat. No motor vehicles were observed with the unit. SP (Labor Service) classrooms were located on the third floor of a large angular building of the barracks installation, the second and fourth floors of which were unoccupied in early December 1950. Reserve officers or

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NCOs were in charge of training and instructing the SP personnel. The training included the handling of light infantry weapons, combat practice, and basic drill.

3. Prior to early December 1950, an engineer unit was located in the barracks installation situated on the northwestern perimeter of the city, on the south side of Ul. Piskorzewie, east of the intersection of that street with ul. Niska. The installation included one four or five-story barracks building and several subsidiary buildings. Groups of 30 to 40 men of the unit were observed being instructed at bridges and constructing emergency bridges over the river branch running past the southern edge of the installation. The soldiers were issued rations at the barracks installation on ul. Nowy Swiat. They wore khaki uniforms and black collar patches, cap bands and pipings. A textile factory had been built on the premises of another barracks installation, which was destroyed during the war. It was located east of the aforementioned installation also on the south side of ul. Piskorzewie.

4. The post training grounds, [redacted] held by the SP prior to early December 1950, was located northwest of the city, on both sides of the road to Pleszew (P 52/X 81), approximately off Koscielna Wies. In the fall of 1949, six guns with horse-drawn limbers and four armored caterpillar vehicles with fixed turrets mounting guns, about 2 meters long with muzzle brakes, were stored in two guarded concrete shelters in the northwestern section of the training grounds. The weapons were no longer seen in 1950, but the two shelters were still guarded in the fall of 1950.

5. Prior to early December 1950 a KBW (Internal Security) agency staffed with soldiers wearing OD uniforms and dark-red service color, was located in the building on the south corner of ul. Warszawska and ul. Kilinskiego. The agency had an undetermined number of motor vehicles.

6. Prior to mid-February 1951, local residents stated that Polish infantrymen were located in the barracks installation. Young troops on ul. Nowy Swiat wearing visor-type service caps with red bands were occasionally observed [redacted] but never was the whole unit seen. The recruiting office was located in the wing fronting on ul. Nowy Swiat.

7. The barracks installation on ul. Lazienna was occupied by Polish troops prior to early March 1951. Mainly officers, including many senior ones, entered or left the installation by an entrance on ul. Sukiennicza. A battalion or regimental headquarters seemed to be located in the installation. Units of about 120 young soldiers, equipped with light infantry weapons only and a limited number of horse-drawn vehicles, frequently marched out of the installation in the direction of Koscielna Wies (P 52/N 94) for practice. SP personnel received instruction in a section of the installation. [redacted]

[redacted] more barracks installations occupied by Polish troops were located 4 to 6 km northwest of the city. No Soviet troops were seen in the streets.

8. Prior to March 1951, the UB (Security Police) headquarters was located on the north side of Al. Stalina, formerly Al. Aleks. Pilsudskiego. The MO (Militia) headquarters was located south of ul. Warszawska, between the river and the Catholic Church.

9. [redacted] training courses for young troops of various branches of the Polish Army were held in the barracks installation on ul. Nowy Swiat in the summer of 1950. In the fall of 1950, troops estimated at one company were stationed in the installation. No heavy weapons were observed with them. The troops inducted in the fall of 1950 included a recruit of the 1930 class from Kalisz and had not yet been issued collar patches.

10. The troops located in the barracks installation on ul. Lazienna wore red collar patches and were referred to as infantrymen. In the fall of 1950,

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the majority of the troops, namely about 1,000 men, transferred, allegedly to a new barracks installation near Szczypiorno (P 52/N 93). Reconditioning work started in the barracks installation on ul. Lazienna in the fall of 1950 and was not yet terminated in mid-March 1951. After the fall of 1950, other troops who also wore red service color on their patches and cap bands were located in the installations and trained recruits. The number of the troops was much smaller than that of the unit previously quartered in the installation. Only a limited number of motor vehicles were observed.

- 25X1 11. [redacted] an AAA unit in Warsaw wore a steel-blue uniform with lemon-yellow service color on the collar patches and the cap band [redacted] in February 1951; the collar of the blouse was left unbuttoned.
- 25X1 12. [redacted] infantrymen wore red service color. Infantry recruits did not wear patches but they did have red cap bands. Recruits of the Kalisz post were observed wearing a narrow red-and-white stripe on their collar tips.

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